

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated December 8, 2004, and have made amendments to the claims. Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 6 and 7 have been added. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 358127038 A, to Noda ("Noda"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated by the Examiner, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Following the Examiner's suggestion, the limitations of original claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claims 1. Likewise, the limitations of original claims 4 and 5 have incorporated into independent claim 3. As amended, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3 are now allowable over Noda.

New Claims 6 and 7

It is respectfully submitted that new claim 6 is allowable because the limitations of amended claim 3, determined to be allowable by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, are recited in new claim 6. Because new claim 7 depends from new claim 6, it is further submitted that new claim 7 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

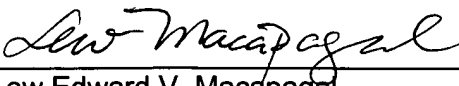
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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